

# the Nation

Volume 1 No. 22 • November 7, 1994  
*every two weeks*

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Serving James Bay Crees and the  
Inuit of Northern Quebec

**NOTHING  
RULED OVER  
ME**  
MINA TAPIATIC

**ESSAY  
CONTEST**  
THE  
COUNTDOWN  
BEGINS

**TOM  
JACKSON**  
TALKS TO  
*THE NATION*  
AND MORE...







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COVER PHOTO: Mina Tapiatic  
Photo by Brian Stewart.

November 7, 1994



Artist Aisa Amittu relaxing.

## I WANT MY SWIMMING POOL

I want my swimming pool.

When I was a young kid, I loved going down to the shore to go swimming. Everyone would be there. As if the hot summer days lasted forever. Playing and swimming in the river were happy times for me. After swimming all afternoon, there'd be a nice bonfire to warm the bones.

They recently built a YMCA at the corner from our production office here in Montreal. It started with steel beams put together like a MECCANO™ set. Anticipation set in, since the time I learned there would also be a swimming pool. I'd pass the building every day while they were working on it. There was an excitement over it throughout the neighbourhood. Everyone couldn't wait for it to open so they could join up.

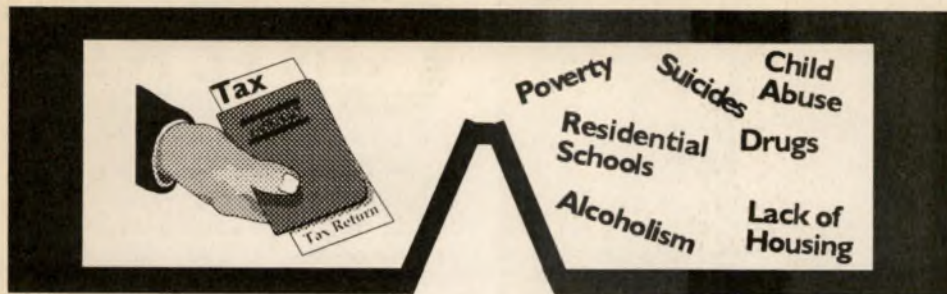
In Fort George just when all hoopla started with all the dams, there seemed to be a rush of excitement everywhere. I didn't grasp what really was going on. I knew we were going to move to the mainland and all. As a kid it was all excitement. In my mind we were moving to a foreign place. I didn't know where we were going. I watched the workers punch holes in the foundations of the houses, slide the steel beams through and lift. I'd follow them to the shore where they floated the houses across the river to the mainland. During all this so-called excitement, the thing which sticks out in my mind is WE WERE GOING TO GET A POOL!!!! That was all that mattered, we were going to get a pool. I somehow knew we wouldn't be able to swim in the river, but we were going to get a pool.

The youth in the neighbourhood around here have their share of problems, in many cases very similar to the youth up North. Even though there were many delays, the count-down to opening day was fast approaching. I signed up. Then it opened. Pool and all. I went in one day to get a schedule for the pool. (They also have a weight room, gyms, running track etc.) There is a place for the youth also. They feature a couple of free pool tables, ping-pong tables, a soccer game and card games. As I left, I looked in to the youth room. There were youth there having a good time—who otherwise would be on the street. The look on their faces said a lot to me. They appreciated what they had and they were having fun.

I'm not saying that a swimming pool or a ping-pong table can compensate for a river destroyed. After seeing the kids in the "Y" and the enthusiasm they showed, I realized how much something like that is so much needed for the youth up North. A pool may not compensate, but it'll help.

BY ERNEST WEBB





## RENDER UNTO CAESAR ONLY WHAT IS CAESAR'S

January 1st is just around the corner and the taxman cometh. The Department of Revenue is about to be the new tool of Canada's assimilation policies.

Hold on, you say. This isn't the old days. Our rights are protected and Canada is no longer the bogeyman out to get us. I think differently.

Let us look at the past. Almost a hundred years or so. In Ontario, some natives began competing with non-native farmers. The farmers complained in their fear to Ottawa. We'll just have to put a stop to that, says Ottawa. Next thing you know the Department of Indian Affairs gets to say who can buy native food produce and for how much. Natives are slapped with restrictions on which farming tools they are allowed to use. They are allowed no modern tools. Only the white people could use those. And Indian-grown food rots because they can't sell it. In fact, Natives even had to get permission to buy twine or string.

Now what does this have to do with the price of apples in Demark? Even though these seem like two different things, they are not.

This January 1995, one of the new rules on taxation is that if a Native company sells to any non-natives, it is taxed. Even if a large percentage of its customers is Native. The point is that through this the government controls who we can sell to. They also end up controlling who we work for and how we work. We are not allowed to enter their markets unless we become like them (by paying tax). They are basically taking native companies and turning them into non-native companies against their will. This smacks of another attempt at disenfranchisement and just when we thought that era was over.

Instead of being happy that we are trying to re-position ourselves in the economy so we won't have to depend on government handouts; instead of realizing the hurdles we have had to overcome to get where we are today, they're throwing more obstacles in our path. God forbid that we ever stand on some sort of equal footing.

One of the reasons for this newest attempt to assimilate us is the constant complaining about the benefits that we as natives supposedly receive by being tax-exempt. Politicians from the reform party (I refuse to capitalize them) cried about this and have fear-mongered long enough.

Once again I say it; if those benefits are of such an advantage, then why are Native peoples in Canada the poorest peoples of all? Why are non-Natives and their governments so afraid that someday Natives will join them on a level playing field, that they'll use any method to keep us in our place? Tax-exempt status is one of the only advantages we had, while most everything else is stacked against us. We want to develop our economy, but we'd like to do so while keeping our cultural integrity intact.

I don't know why the definition of Native keeps getting narrower. All I know is that the velvet glove has slipped off the iron fist yet again. Our rights as First Nations peoples are being eroded once more and there sometimes seems little we can do about it. The courts are not our courts and tend to reflect another culture than ours. Our voices are small in Ottawa for all the rhetoric about equal rights. Canada prides itself on its human rights record, but that record is being tarnished once again and business goes on as usual. The Native is left behind in the dust to attempt to find some new way to ensure a viable economic future.

Just when it looked like we were getting somewhere; just when I thought Canada's record with Native people could not get any blacker, I was wrong. It is a black hole where Native peoples and consideration for their rights disappear from the light of day forever. Be proud, Canada, be strong in your rights, because while you continue to steal what you can, there will come a time in the future. The Native voice that has been asleep is now awakening.

BY WILL NICHOLLS



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### THE NATION HEAD OFFICE

P.O. Box 151  
CHISASIBI, QUE. J0M 1E0

### PRODUCTION OFFICE

5678 PARC AVE. TEL.: 514-272-3077  
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## RE-ELECTION BID FAILS IN WEMINDJI

BY ERNEST WEBB AND  
CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE

A group of Wemindji residents failed in their attempt to call a re-election in their community when they couldn't get quorum at a band meeting.

Calling themselves the Wemindji Silent Majority, 137 people signed a petition calling for the special band meeting. At the meeting residents were to decide whether general elections should be called. The meeting was held Oct. 17.

Under the Cree-Naskapi Act, 10 signatures are needed to compel the Band Council to call such a meeting.

Supporters of the current Wemindji administration were relieved when the bid for re-election failed. They said it proves the so-called Silent Majority is only a small minority.

In order for the meeting to be official, 327 eligible voters needed to be present. Only 100 showed up.

However, leading dissents claim supporters of Chief Walter Hughboy were turning people away at the door.

On the night of the re-election meeting, about 100 supporters of Chief Hughboy refused to go into the community hall so quorum couldn't be reached, according to Marion Tomatuk, one of the main proponents of the petition.

"When I was outside I heard it with my own ears," said Johnny Georgekish, who also signed the petition. "They were telling the people, 'You can't go in. You didn't sign the petition.'" Georgekish claims he saw mainly young people being targeted and turned away.

Community radio station manager Jacqueline Blackned, a supporter of the current administration and Chief Hughboy's sister, said she was one of the people who stayed outside. "No one turned people away," she said. "We never said that to anyone."

The petition was suspect from the beginning, claims Blackned. She said she knows personally of people who signed the petition who didn't even know what they

were putting their name to.

Another supporter of the current administration, who wished to remain anonymous, said the dissidents are just sore losers. "They're just crying because they lost. They're a small little faction of fanatics."

Francois Robert, a Montreal lawyer who was consulted by the petitioners, said he also heard residents were turned away from the meeting. Robert said all eligible Wemindji voters, whether they signed the petition or not, had the right to enter the meeting. "If people were told they couldn't go in, that is misleading and abusing the people's understanding of the law," Robert said. "If that is what happened, it will be the first time the Cree-Naskapi Act has been used in such a dirty way by preventing people to go into a meeting."

In a newsletter attached to the petition, which was circulated to Wemindji residents (a copy was also sent to *The Nation*), Chief Hughboy is taken to task on a wide range of issues.

It alleges, without providing supporting documentation, that the Chief has invested large sums of money in business ventures without consulting the population, has neglected the community's social problems, did not consult the population early enough on a controversial mini-dam project and continues to hire too many non-natives.

The letter also alleges the current administration is hiring underqualified Chief Hughboy family members, while demoting others without following normal procedures and employee rights.

The petitioners also claim the administration is considering taking over a number of mandates from the Grand Council of the Crees, and eventually pulling Wemindji out altogether.

The newsletter claims the petition has more signatures than Chief Walter Hughboy received in the last election. The Chief was voted in with 135 votes, the newsletter says.

Chief Hughboy couldn't be reached for comment.

## WEMINDJI RADIO ACCUSED OF BEING TOO ONE-SIDED

In a newsletter currently circulating among Wemindji residents, the local radio station has been accused of banning people opposed to Chief Walter Hughboy's administration from getting on air.

"There is a broadcast ban on our local radio," the newsletter says.

Wemindji station manager Jacqueline Blackned responds by saying that the radio has a responsibility to present accurate information to its listeners and for legal reasons cannot encourage potential lies and false accusations to float freely over the airwaves.

"You can't just put anything on the air," Blackned said in an interview with *The Nation*. "We have to be responsible in that way."

The newsletter, accompanied by a petition which was signed by 137 residents, alleges that the radio station gives unqualified access to Chief Walter Hughboy's point of view, while refusing to air the other side of the story.

"While Chief Hughboy dominates Wemindji radio with his usual long speeches, obviously so no one can ask questions, he refuses to allow the broadcast of views different from his," the newsletter says.

Johnny Georgekish, one of the signers of the petition, said he asked permission from the radio to give air time to the dissidents' point of view.

"It seems people are saying that information was only coming from one side and people wanted the other side of the story so it would be fair to everybody," Georgekish said.

He said he was told to speak to Blackned, the station manager.

"She told me I had to go to the (Wemindji Telecommunications Association's) board of directors and she gave me a few phone numbers," he said.

"I didn't push the issue," he added. "I figured it was useless. If anybody can pick up the phone from Toronto or Ottawa, like the Chief does, and can go on whenever he wants, why should I have to ask the board of directors?"

*The Nation* contacted a board director of the telecommunications association who confirmed that no one generally has to ask permission to go on the air. "People just call up and they auto-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## WEMINDJI RADIO ACCUSED OF ONE-SIDED COVERAGE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

matically go on," said the director, who wished to remain anonymous.

Blackned acknowledged she doesn't normally refer people to the Board, but said that when it came to what she and others see as slanderous and vicious accusations against the Chief, she wanted the Board to make the ruling. "I didn't want the radio station to get sued, so I referred it to the Board for a decision," she said.

"When people call the radio we ask what they are going to talk about. If it is about hunting, or whatever, we just put them on," Blackned said. "But in this case, what they are writing and saying about our Chief is not true. It's false accusations."

When asked how can she be sure the information currently going over the airwaves is itself true, Blackned said: "We know. We've checked around." She added, "Walter is my brother. I've seen enough proof with my own eyes to know what is being said against him is false and misleading to the people."

The dissidents also claim their public meeting on Oct. 17 was never once announced over the radio.

Blackned, however, said the meeting was mentioned repeatedly over the air.

"Ten days before the election, the Chief did an interview and mentioned that there was going to be a meeting on the 17th. We kept playing that tape," she said. "Everybody knew about that meeting. It was posted all over the community."

Blackned added that the radio station asked the dissidents to translate their newsletter into Cree the night before the meeting. "They never showed up," she said.

—by Ernest Webb and Catherine Batnbridge

## SDBJ ingenious

## Letter to the Nation:

It is with interest that I read *The Nation*. I often find well-documented articles on subjects pertaining to the Cree Nation.

However, on page 4, in your July 29th, 1994 edition, written by Mr. Boyce Richardson, the article, "Ingenious, impersonal machines," made reference to a James Bay Development Corporation (SDBJ) publication, which in Mr. Richardson's opinion, characterized an impersonal attitude towards the James Bay territory.

I have held the position of regional development director for SDBJ for more than four years. I do not know of nor have I been able to locate the short excerpts Mr. Richardson referred to. Would it be possible to identify the document in question? Be assured that the SDBJ intervenes in the territory with an approach inspired by respect and an objective of continued and sustainable development, which can hardly be interpreted as "impersonal."

In closing, I can assure you that I will remain an interested reader of *The Nation*.

Christian Dubois

Directeur du développement régional,  
SDBJ, Chibougamau

the Nation

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The Ouje-Bougoumou Huskies won the boys' title in the First Invitational B-ball Tourney.

## MISTISSINI GIVES CREE BASKETBALL A BOOST

After a basketball clinic was cancelled in Mistissini, William MacLeod had an idea. Mistissini would host a basketball tournament.

MacLeod, who is executive director of Mistissini Band Council, told *The Nation* that he came up with the idea after listening to the youth in Mistissini. Mistissini youth had been talking about starting up a league and many were putting up basketball hoops behind their houses. The Band Council put up a couple outside the Mistissini arena. They see a lot of use.

MacLeod sees basketball as an alternative to hockey and broomball. "Don't get me wrong," he says. "There is nothing wrong with hockey or broomball. But not everybody is into it. Basketball is also an inexpensive sport for the youth to get into."

For the last three years, Mistissini youth have been attending basketball clinics and wanted more.

On August 23, a meeting was held with the Mistissini recreation department to discuss hosting the First Regional Invitational Basketball Tournament. At this meeting, the tournament date was set for Oct. 6-9, and recreation co-ordinator Hugo Cowboy took up the task of setting it up. He got together a committee of volunteers and started to work.

A decision was reached that the tournament would be open to more than just the Cree communities. This resulted in seeing players from places like Chibougamau going up against usually isolated Cree teams.

How would this turn out? The results speak for themselves. "The caliber of basketball was very good," said MacLeod. "We wanted to see the same type of things as the hockey and broomball tournaments and we got it. I think we'll be seeing much more of this type of thing in the future."

Chisasibi and Eastmain are now considering holding their own regional tournaments.

*The Nation* talked to Sarah Glisky, the Chisasibi recreation co-ordinator, about this and future tournaments. Glisky told *The Nation* that Chisasibi sent five teams to the Mistissini tournament. About 40 people from Chisasibi went on a trip full of surprises.

"One of our vans broke down about 60 kilometres from Nemaska," she said. "We had to find places for everybody and they were saying the road had washed out. So we would've been stuck in Nemaska anyway."

Glisky also said the Nemaska people were great and helped out a lot. Arrangements were made that, from Mistissini, vehicles would be waiting on the other side of the wash-out to pick up Chisasibi players. Fortunately, the wash-out was passable and this wasn't needed. Chisasibi went on to see two of its teams win.

"The whole tournament was a lot of fun," said Glisky.

Chisasibi is looking at the possibility of holding a basketball tournament in the new year.

The results of the First Regional Invitational Basketball Tournament are on pages 22 and 23.

BY WILL NICHOLS

the Nation

## YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to all those who entered *The Nation's* First Cree Youth Essay Contest.

All the entries were excellent, which made it hard to choose the winners. But we narrowed it down to six finalists.

Rodney Hester, age 21, of Nemaska, won our Grand Prize with his fictional essay called "Dreamcatcher." Rodney wins an all-expenses-paid trip to Montreal to see a concert.

Runner-up prizes of a CD player and free CD go out to Betty Stewart of Wemindji, Lois Blackned of Waskaganish, Clifford Mayappo of Wemindji, Joseph Moar of Waskaganish Harry Weistche of Waskaganish.

We will be printing all six prize-winning essays in *The Nation*, starting with Rodney's (see page 13 of this issue).

*The Nation* would like to thank all the sponsors of the contest: Mike's Studio, Air Creebec, the Cree School Board, Meechum Store. —*Nation staff*

## PQ PHOTO-OP REBUFFED

Sparks have been flying between the PQ government and the Grand Council over the policing question in Cree communities.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come refused to attend a press conference organized for Oct. 26 where a policing agreement was to be signed. The photo-op was to be attended by Grand Chief Coon Come, Premier Jacques Parizeau, federal Solicitor-General Herb Gray, provincial Public Security Minister Serge Menard and David Cliche, the PQ's native-affairs advisor.

"Everything was ready," Cliche lamented to reporters after finding out that the Grand Chief wasn't going to attend. "You'll have to ask him the reasons," he snapped to the reporters.

Bill Namagoose said the press conference was little more than a public relations exercise for the new PQ government. "We have more respect for the premier than to just come to a photo opportunity orchestrated for public relations reasons," he told the *Gazette*.

Namagoose said Creees have a problem with Parizeau's decision to hand over responsibility for native affairs to Cliche, who isn't a cabinet minister and thus has no binding authority.

—*Nation staff*

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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## WALLY RABBITSKIN 1ST IN QUEBEC

Congratulations to Mistissini's Wally Rabbitskin, who came in first among Quebec participants in the Montreal Marathon on Sept. 18.

Wally's finishing time for the prestigious 26-mile race was 2 hours, 31 minutes and 30 seconds. Wally finished ninth overall among the 6,000 participants.

Aged 32, Wally has been racing in marathons for seven years and has participated in a dozen competitions each year in places like Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, Miami and Toronto.

His annual expenses are about \$10,000, while he only brings in \$5,000 from his racing. His Montreal finish, for example, didn't net him anything.

—Nation staff

## TOUGH TALK FROM QUEBEC CHIEFS

Tensions have been running high between First Nations and the PQ government in recent weeks.

At a three-day meeting north of

Quebec City, native Chiefs issued a unanimous declaration rejecting the PQ policy that Quebec's borders cannot be changed. The First Nations have the right to self-determination and will defend that right, especially if Quebecers vote to separate from Canada, said the aboriginal Chiefs.

The Chiefs also said they won't discuss self-government with the PQ until Quebec recognizes that natives have the right to self-determination and their own territorial integrity.

"Never will we sit across the table from anybody who says the Mohawk territory does not exist in this land," said Kahnawake Chief Bill Two Rivers in a *Gazette* article.

Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, agreed, saying natives have as much right to self-determination as Quebecers. "We have an equal right to yours."

Quebec cannot arbitrarily decide that First Nations will be taken out of Canada, said Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. "We certainly do not want to wake up one morning and find ourselves as part of a new Quebec republic."

The Grand Chief expanded on these sentiments in a lengthy article in the Oct. 15 edition of the *Globe and Mail*. He defended his recent trip to Washington to speak about Cree rights, a trip which provoked some ire in Quebec. "Why is there a double standard?" he asked. "Why is it that Parizeau can get away with it? And Bouchard can get away with it? But I go down there and all of a sudden, hey, there's a different law for me, different rules for native people?"

The Grand Chief added: "If Quebec wants to jump in its canoe and paddle away, I have a choice. Either I want to jump into the canoe or I want to stay on dry land. We have the right to choose with who we want to associate ourselves. Quebec needs our consent."

—Alex Roslin

## CASTEL "DISMAYED" BY SPEECH

A prominent Quebec environmentalist group has distanced herself from the Crees in the wake of Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come's visit to Washington in September.

Daphna Castel, head of the group



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## Coming On CBC TV Maamuitaau

November 5 & 6

**Maamuitaau** begins a three-part profile of Mario Lord, a trapper following the traditional life year round on the land near Waswanipi. Visits to the trapline, interviews and stories begin this special profile. Also a vignette profiling how to make a dream catcher.

November 12 & 13

**Maamuitaau** takes a look at the 20th anniversary of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec, with historical coverage, interviews and a look at the issues of today. The anniversary celebrations were recorded at the Council's meetings in August at Eastmain. Also a vignette profiling Ted Moses talking about the G.C.C.Q. logo.

**Watch Maamuitaau:**

Fridays	18:00	CBC North and TVNC
	22:00	TVNC
Saturdays	06:45	SRC
Sundays	07:30	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

**CBC**  **North**



Mouvement Au Courant, accused the Grand Chief of insulting Quebecers with his speech. "We were surprised and dismayed to see in your address what we feel is a disparaging attitude towards Quebec," Castel wrote in a letter sent to major Quebec media.

"It would seem that you believe that Quebec society cannot be trusted to accord the civic respect and the protection of your people's rights in the way that you imagine Canada does."

Castel and her group have been active in fighting the proposed Great Whale River Project.

In the speech, Grand Chief Coon Come had asked Washington government officials to watch closely Quebec's treatment of native peoples in coming months. Especially worrisome, he said, were comments by PQ politicians threatening natives with police and courts if they refused to accept an independent Quebec.

—Nation staff

## HOLLYWOOD RAPPED ON NATIVES

Tired of being exploited by the film and TV industry, Native Americans gave Hollywood a wakeup call in early October, reports *Indian Country Today*.

A council of First Nations actors, actresses and activists said it is unacceptable for non-natives to be cast as natives in films and on TV. They also called on the industry to stop inaccurate and demeaning portrayals of Native Americans.

"We're not going to allow our images to be distorted and fictionalized any more," said Sonny Skyhawk, a Sicangu Lakota who has worked in the film business for 26 years.

Skyhawk formed American Indians in Film in 1990 to advocate for accurate portrayals of natives. His research shows that of 2,747 films with native themes, only 136 used actual natives. Of 196,000 hours of TV shows on native topics, 46 per cent included non-natives playing natives.

Skyhawk said the coalition would call up business that advertised on offensive programs and threaten to boycott their products.

—Nation staff

## PQ WANTS SQ IN KANEHSATAKE

Tensions are high in Kanehsatake following an announcement by SQ

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISTISSINI FIRST NATION



Chisasibi's Northern Light Ladies won the women's title in Mistissini's b-ball tourney.

Public Security Minister Serge Menard that the SQ is going to crack down on alleged lawlessness in the Mohawk community.

"If there are no police here, it's anarchy," Menard told reporters at a press conference on Oct. 29. "The political will to intervene exists."

While in opposition, the PQ repeatedly demanded a crackdown on supposed criminality in Mohawk communities.

Menard said Kanehsatake residents have complained of being terrorized by a group of Mohawks firing guns and driving dangerously.

But in interviews with Kanehsatake residents, a *Gazette* reporter found the problem isn't as bad as Menard says.

Grand Chief Jerry Peltier refused to allow an SQ presence in Kanehsatake, and said Quebec police are in for a fight if they intervene.

"It won't happen," said a Mohawk interviewed by the *Gazette*. "There'll be a war if it does."

—Nation staff

## MOHAWKS TO PUT ON TRADE SHOW

Mohawks are organizing an international trade show for next year which will feature 250 businesses from all seven Mohawk communities.

"We want to dispell certain myths," said organizer Dale Dione in an article in Montreal's *Hour* weekly. "A trade show would be an excellent opportunity to change the image in the non-native world that we're all criminals and terrorists."

The Mohawk economy has been hit

hard by federal and Quebec government measures to curb the duty-free cigarette and gasoline trades. Non-native employers are also hiring fewer Mohawks since the Oka crisis of 1990. Plus, work shortages have hit the construction and steel trades, where many Mohawks work.

Before the Oka crisis, about 300 Kahnawake families were getting welfare. Now, the number is 950. Dione said requests for funding for the trade show have been turned away by federal and provincial agencies.

—Nation staff

## HEARINGS INTO NUCLEAR WASTE

The Canadian government is one step closer to burying tons of nuclear waste in the Canadian Shield.

A federal report released on Oct. 26 says nuclear waste can be safely stored up to a kilometre deep in the Canadian Shield. The waste would be buried in rock formations known as plutons, found in many areas of the Shield.

The report is based on 15 years of research done mostly in Manitoba by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., a federal agency. The report will be reviewed by the Federal Environmental Review Office. A federal panel will then decide whether to hold public hearings a year from now.

Canada has enough spent nuclear fuel to fill a hockey to a depth of six feet, says an article by Canadian Press. Presently, it is in underwater storage not meant to be permanent. What will they think of next?

—Neil Diamond



# NOTHING RULED OVER ME



BRIAN STEWART

Mina Tapaatic at Mamweedow Minschtukch, July, 1994.

"I'm beading right now," she said, as I talked to her through the phone. "I'm kissing you," she said. "Me too," I replied.

She raised seven children. Two have passed away. Thirty four Grandchildren. Three passed away. Seventy great-Grandchildren and 18 great-great-Grandchildren. Her name is Mina Tapiatic. She was born in 1904, and I think it's safe to say she saw it all.

She saw how Dab-Iiyuu lived. She saw the transformation of the Cree culture first-hand.

I felt honoured that she took the time to talk to me. She is 90 years of age and offers a unique perspective on life.

—TRANSLATED BY ERNEST WEBB





Teepees in Ft. George, 1927.

### Is there anything you want to talk about?

The thing which I really don't allow is our river being polluted. It's hard on me. When I remember my Grandchildren and my great-Grandchildren and your parents' Grandchildren, that's why it's hard on me.

I've talked about this a lot of times, that it doesn't sit well with me. How beautiful the water was before it was polluted. I never saw a bug (mindooosh) in the water when I was growing up, fetching water at the Island. How beautiful the Creator made it. It is hard on me. Everything is being destroyed. Where our parents raised us and their parents also.

When they say we can't eat anything anymore, it's hard on me. Let's try hard to keep what we had or didn't have, like alcohol. It was never around. I never saw my parents drink. That's what's on my mind, things affecting us, that were never around. I am grateful that drinking has gone down a bit since the first time they unloaded it here at the Island. Talk to your children.

I AM GOING to tell a bit about what I've seen. From where I remember, that's what I'll talk about. When I was 10 years old, the white man's influence wasn't around. Everyone got everything from the liyuu way. I saw my father make a canoe. He got everything himself. He got his birchbark on a mountain. All he had was his crooked knife (mookidakin). He used his arms and hands to measure. He didn't have a pencil to mark; he used blackened wood from the fire. liyuu got everything for himself. My mother

said they didn't have matches. They used flint to make fires. Where was Quebec when they say it's his land? My father never talked about them. We always saw the Whapmagoostui-liyuuch, Osawow-liyuuch and Wabinuutau-liyuuch and the Waskaganish, Nemaska and Waswanipi-liyuuch. I never heard talk of the one they call Quebec. I don't believe him when he says it's his land. Where was he? Where was his garden? Where did he drink from? What would he do if he was told to start a fire with flint?

I remember my father having matches. They were very careful with them. They always lived for themselves and for their children. It was only recently we knew the wood stove, to cook with it. I remember when there were only three buildings on the Island: the store manager's house, which was attached to the store itself, plus the rectory and the church.

I'm telling the truth when I say I remember the time when there were only three buildings. We would only stay for a while at the buildings, then we'd be off. We would go further than where the road ends (900 km). Where the last dam is. Straight east is where the river starts, further east is where I used to be. There weren't any planes either. Maybe some people don't believe I only used my legs to get around. I was married. That's where we used to go.

We stayed with a family of Osawow-liyuuch and a Wabanuutau-liyuu. We winter-camped a couple of times where the dam is. We paddled. We stayed with Bobby Naheekapuu's (Neacappo)

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## Nothing ruled over me...

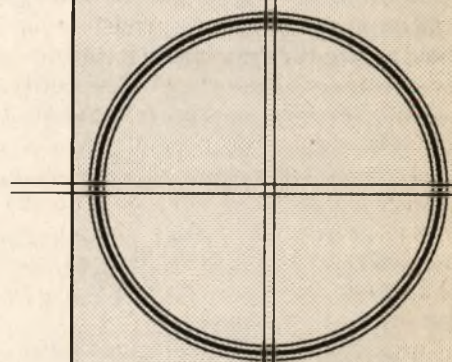
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

parents. Bobby wasn't around yet. I was very happy. Nothing could stop us, in the way of the liyuu. We were there when our children's father was still alive. During the moon of the Loon (May) is when we got our Canoe. We travelled far... Before the sun broke, I would take down our home. And my children were strong. It was far. Then we would start for town. To the Island. I was very happy. It was happiness, when one could get around. Lake to lake we portaged many times, set the net, baited the hook. Wherever we were. Then there would be many people along the way. Uushtchinuukupii (Duncan Lake) is where we would paddle to sometimes, if people wanted to. The needles from the boughs would have already been dried off where people stayed. The time was during the Cox's father, when he was still hunting. It was far to come into town.

I'm going to complain a bit. Today when one wants to go inland for any period of time, it's as if he has to send for supplies the "next day." For us, the amount of time we didn't see the buildings. "How did we do it?" I ask myself. From hunting, porcupine, otter, there wasn't anything we didn't eat. Today there is a lot which is destroyed from where we can live from. The thing which is hard for me is the disease (mercury poisoning) they talk about. We never had that before. He made everything beautiful, the one who made everything. For us, it is destroyed. It's all under water now, where I raised my children. I do mourn it, where we got everything. All my medicine, from the trees. That's why I mourn it. We had all our medicine. Labrador tea... I helped a lot of people with my medicine. If anything happened, accidents with the axe. That's why I mourn it.

Where we lived, it's not there anymore. Before the schools, my children and their children were there. They hardly remember anymore. They come to talk to me and ask me if that's the way it was. And I reply, "yes." Then they say it's like as if they are dreaming the memories. Where they were. Then they went to school. That's why they hardly remember. Nothing ruled over me. Nothing ruled over anybody. Whatever anybody wanted to do, they would do. Nothing would rule them. Wherever anybody wanted to hunt. Over inland, after the last dam, is where we were. Nothing ruled.

Pollution of the water is what I don't allow. At Uubichuun (LG-1) was beautiful hunting. That's where people gathered. They would gather fish. I don't want to see Uubichuun now, how pitiful it looks. They asked me to take a drive over there. I refused, I feel sorrow for that place. "It looks hideous now," I told them. Even the Whapmagoostui people came there, to gather fish. I will never forget that. And the Whapmagoostui River will also be destroyed. Let's help them, so it doesn't get destroyed. They also remember their Grandchildren and great-Grandchildren.





# DREAMCATCHER

BY RODNEY HESTER

IN A COOL CALM September evening, gazing into the sunset, I sat alone in my chair which was fashioned by time, pondering of the days gone by. The memories of my youth clearly remained with me.

I remember the days of my childhood upbringing. I was always encouraged to chase after the desires of my heart. I remember fondly the long walks and talks I had taken with my parents and grandparents. It was in these walks and talks where we discussed the things that were of interest to me. I also remember the Elders and the leaders of our community, when they sat in council discussing the issues that were to affect our people. A good memory of all these people was that they rarely pushed me aside, and when they did, I understood their reasons. These memories of my childhood I believe led me into a good direction in life. The wisdom and advice that I received from these people, I treasure. These things have helped me in my life, even to this day.

When I was young, at the elementary level of my education, I loved to dream. Happy dreams of what I would like to do when I grew up. I was encouraged by many to pursue my dreams. Though there were those who thought my expectations were beyond my ability, I kept my eyes on what I felt was positive. Although I wasn't one of the

top students in my class, I gave all that I had within me. I have always remembered the words of my teacher, "I see a small seed within you that will one day sprout and grow. You will become a positive influence on your people. You only have to chase and live out your dreams." At the time I didn't clearly understand what she meant, now I do.

In the later years of my public education I encountered many obstacles that at times seemed impossible to overcome. I faced pressure from my peers to get involved into things I felt wouldn't profit me anything. Failures in relationships and goals I thought I would accomplish brought on feelings of low self-esteem many times. I wasn't always welcomed by social groups and by people I thought were friends. What hurt the most was to witness first-hand rolemodels and people I looked up to as heroes, fall and openly disgrace themselves. As I thought on these things, I began to realize that everyone had strengths and weakness, everyone at times fell short of their goals. The important thing I learned in seeing this and experiencing it myself, was that it was healthy in Spirit to keep my visions, and to view my failures as experiences to learn from.

Toward high school graduation I began to realize what a great responsibility was placed on my shoulders. Choices had to be made, choices I could only make, that would effect my life as an adult. Educational choices that would support myself and family, for to raise a family was one of the dreams I held dear to my heart. One day while sitting in an educational institution, I stopped what I was doing, and took a look around me. It was then that I realized that I no longer sat with the fellow classmates of my home community. Some were off pursuing their goals elsewhere, others were back home with their families. Not everyone turned out the same. It was in my heart to see all those I grew up with achieve happiness



in life, but it wasn't always like that. Returning home from college one summer, I heard the unhappy news that a close friend I grew up with had taken his life. I saw a couple of the girls I went to school with pushing strollers which held their children. It was then that I realized I was no longer living in the innocent days of youth. What brought joy to my soul besides what had happened, was to see others I grew up

with enjoying their days, pursuing their goals. I made sure to take the time to encourage those of my friends who were down in Spirit, to keep their youthful eyes on the bright side of life. We believed that all things were bound to get better.

One sunny Sunday afternoon, looking out the window of my apartment, I found myself longing for a friendship. I desired to have a companion. Someone to talk with, take long walks with, someone to share my deepest fears, sorrows and joys with. Someone who would be willing to understand, and who would have the same interests I had. Someone to spend time with, grow with and love with. At this time in my life I was in university and in my early twenties. I had friendships with girls I knew before, but never once had I had a serious relationship that involved both people giving themselves to each other. It came certain to me, I wanted someone to love.

Upon completion of my year at university, I returned home to my community to find work, as I usually did. We held our Annual Invitational Pow-Wow which welcomed other tribes and communities. I was head of the organizing committee, and it was in this Pow-Wow that I met the person I was looking for.

There were many dancers, but I could have sworn she danced alone, for it was only her my eyes were braced upon. I managed to meet her that summer, and in time, we got to know each other. We grew to love one another and got to know each others' families. She also was in university and due to graduate in the same year I was to graduate. We decided to get married the summer we graduated. In our shared lives we found fulfilment and happiness. We instilled the values we both grew up with into both our children, and watched as they matured into young adults pursuing their dreams.

I became Chief of my community at the young age of 27, through the election of my people. I fought for what was right and held on to what was true. I was cautious on how I presented myself at all times, always careful to maintain my status. I held the title of Chief for 28 years and retired at the age of 55.

I sit alone this cool calm September evening, gazing into the sunset, in my chair which I fashioned by time. I ponder of the days gone by and get a fulfilling feeling of satisfaction. I have successfully lived out my dreams and heart's desires. Though the love of my life has passed on before me, I trust that one day we will be reunited. My children are the ones I will pass my mantle down to. I trust that they too will see the small seed within themselves, and allow it to sprout and grow into a positive influence for our people.

**Rodney's essay won the Grand Prize in The Nation's Cree Youth Essay Contest.**



# KASHTIN RETURNS WITH AKUA TUTA



By ERNEST WEBB

**C**LAUDE MCKENZIE had problems with alcohol. He was at a party back in his home town of Maliotenam 800 km northeast of Montreal. That night, he drove his girlfriend home. On his way, he hit a teenage girl. She went into a coma. Rumours circulated that she might not live. Everyone who had been following Kashtin and watching their rise to fame was shocked. It was terrible news. They had risen so high and then fallen down hard. Claude was sentenced to nine months in jail, did two in Sept Îles. He lost his driver's license for six years and paid \$10,000 in fines and court costs. The young girl recovered, without permanent damage. During all this, Claude lost his son of two years to illness.

Now he's back after what must have been a long journey, doing what he does best, making music. Enter Florent Vollant, they are Kashtin. They are back. After their 1989 phenomenal self-titled debut album and the 1991 certified platinum follow-up album *Innu*. Now there's *Akua Tuta*. They are the same, but different somehow. Their sound continues where they left off, but it's more mature, even cooler this time. Less edge than in their first album. Fewer gimmicks than in their second. They also could be bigger than ever this time around. So far, they've only really made it big in the Canadian and European markets.

With this new album, they're signed on with the mega-record company Sony Records and they are

making a push to the American market.

They debuted their new album in Montreal and *The Nation* had a chance to catch them in action at a local concert venue called Club Soda. It was a high-brow invitation-only launch. The place was full of Music industry types, media, lots of suits and ties and there were a couple of families of Innu who came to see what all the fuss was all about and of course to see Kashtin. Hors d'oeuvres were served throughout the event. Small hand-sized quiches, skewered BBQ chicken, shrimp on sticks and lots of little delicate desserts. That made Neil happy. They played their new album and video on the sound system and then the big event came when Kashtin took to the stage. Claude looked older and more handsome, say the women. He has filled out. He isn't as skinny as he used to be and looks very healthy. Florant, it was also pointed out by the women, looks better without his moustache.

They have a new band line up and invited drummer Lucien Jourdain. They did a couple of new songs from their new album, of course, including the title song *Akua tuta*. But they ended the set with the familiar *Euassiuian*. In the end that is what they are... Familiar, with the sense of oneness that is achieved through the spirit of music. From the time in the late eighties when I heard their pre-label bootleg demo tape to when they were "discovered" and they played their first gig at Theatre St-Denis (quite a step from playing in the subway metros where they started) and up to now. They have transcended languages and cultures and planted themselves in people's hearts. From the looks of things, they are still there. Welcome back, if you were ever away.



# No REGRETS: TOM JACKSON

By WILLIAM NICHOLLS

TOM JACKSON WAS born on a small reserve called One Arrow in Saskatchewan. His roots are Cree and English. Currently living in Winnipeg, he's inescapably in the fast lane.

I'm not just passing gossip about *North Of 60's* huge success here. I'm sure most people have seen him in his role as the militant Dene Chief. Acting is just a small part of this amazing man. Tom and his wife are currently trying to set up some mobile soup kitchens in home towns Winnipeg and Calgary.

His generosity, according to those who know him, is no "big man helping out the small people" scene. It is something that Jackson has always seen as part of his life. It began with his mother serving as an example. She was always helping out others. Jackson himself spent a few years on the street and stresses it was by choice.

He knows the life of a street person. Now he and his wife raise money for organizations working with the homeless in Winnipeg. The Huron Carol Christmas Concert sees Jackson and other musicians putting on a yearly gig. Exhibition monies go to food banks. The Salvation Army is the recipient of profits from Jackson's cassettes.

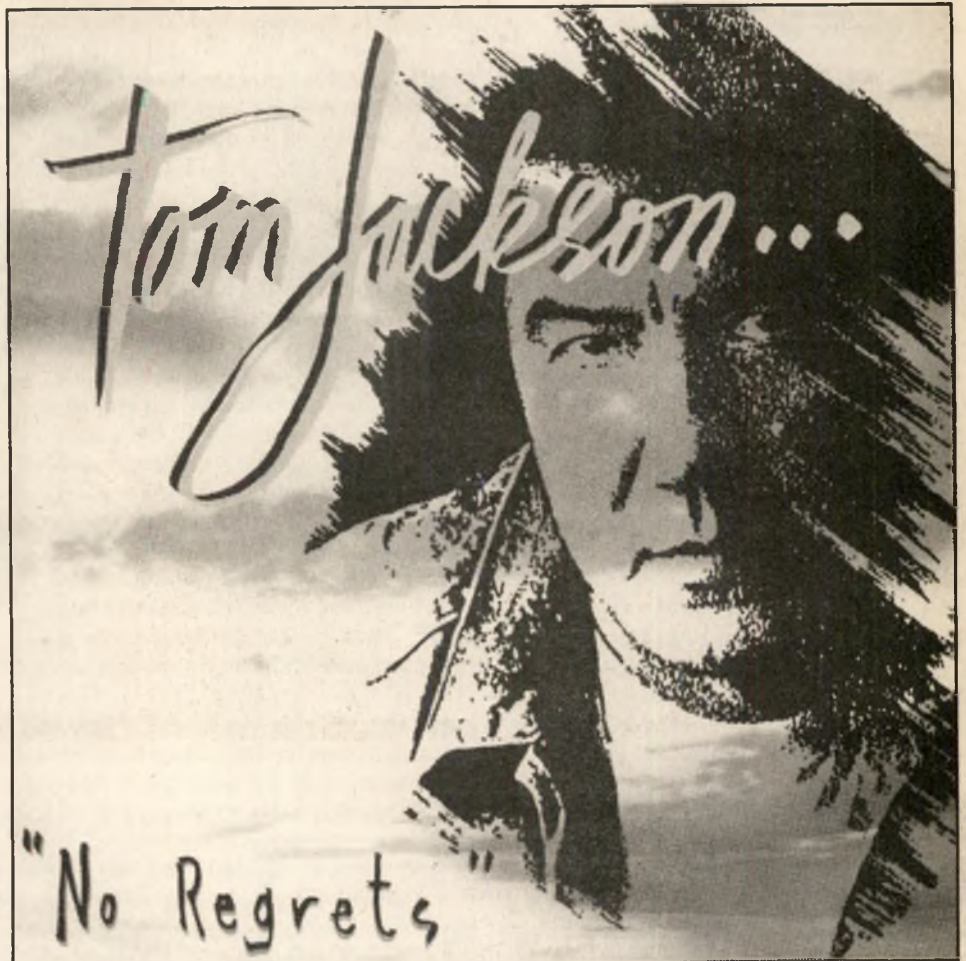
Hold on, you say. Did I mention that in addition to acting, Tom Jackson is also a musician with a country beat? None of this new country-rock, but a pleasantly familiar no-bones-about-it, honest-to-goodness country sound.

I told Jackson I enjoyed the flavour of the album, it had a good mix. I felt there were some interesting surprises in it. He replied, "...my favourite parts of the album were in fact finding new ways of doing things."

The name of this extraordinary album is *No Regrets*. Tom Jackson wrote all the songs on it and you can taste his life's experiences.

**The Nation:** You just put out an album and most people down here didn't know you are actually a singer; they know you for your acting. Are you looking to having a singing career as well?

Tom Jackson: I started out as a singer and I've been flirting with a singing career for 30 years. It's actually what led me into the acting field. I had been playing for years and years and someplace one day,



somebody asked me, Would you like to take a stab in acting? And I did, with a small amount of success at the time and I was sort of swayed into possibly making a living doing something else other than singing. Just as long as it was in the arts, it was fine with me.

At this point in time I think the record itself will dictate whether or not I will go into a renewed pursuit of a singing career.

**What about the music;** there's basically a renaissance of native music, especially in Canada. You know there's Larry Robinson, Vern Cheechoo, 7th Fire, Kashtin, Lawrence Martin's coming up, Murray Porter and that. Are you going along this vein and looking at it being a good time for native music or native musicians?

No, it really has nothing to do with me, believe it or not. I actually recorded this album because I was approached by a record company. The record company itself may have had some inclining in that direction, but they haven't indicated it to me.

But the reason I in fact did this album was because the record company just outright came to me and said, "Listen we'd like to record your tunes and we'll give you a free hand in what you want to do; you just go ahead and do what you want to do." Along with collaborating with Tim Thomy, who's the producer on the project, he and I pretty much locked ourselves in a room and just formulated what kind of image we wanted to present for the entire album; and I'm not sure that we actually came up with a definition, but we did have a musical camaraderie that seems to come out in the end result.

**Are you going to be touring with your album and if so, where?**

Again, it's one of those things that would be dictated by the sales of the album, if in fact

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



# Tom Jackson...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

we're played in Quebec. I would absolutely be out there playing if in fact there was a demand for it. But I don't think I'm in a position to go out and try to create the demand myself because I don't have as strong a profile in that.

## Were you always active in acting and singing as a kid?

I certainly was as a kid. I was surrounded by my aunts and uncles on the mother's side; by people who were all singers and players. They all played various instruments and they were all singers. I remember the basic Saturday night jams happening at my place all the time and hanging around the stairwell with my ear to the wall listening to them playing and I don't remember exactly when it was I got a guitar. I think it might have been around seven or something, but that's a guess at best. I remember having a guitar for the most part of my life, sort of like being one of my limbs, you know.

## So it's been part of you for a long time now. What kind of business would you say the entertainment business is? A lot of people say it's a hard life. Would you recommend it to native children, native kids who are reading this article?

I think anybody who wants to get involved in the business has to realize one thing, well, two things. First of all, it's a very rewarding business from a couple of perspectives. For myself, I've discovered the business doesn't generally have a race or a creed, it has a performance level and if you can perform you can be involved in the business.

I think it's very important to realize that it takes a long time. I mean you can get real lucky, but it takes a long time to build up a portfolio. I mean there's the phrase, "Pay your dues." Well, I don't know exactly what "pay your dues" means. I know you have to be open to the fact that you may have to do other things in the industry to wait your turn, to get your shot, and when you get your shot, you'd better be ready to go because if you're not there's somebody standing right behind you.

So from that perspective it sounds hard. But it's not if in fact you just understand what you have to do. And what you have to

do is get out there and play your best every time because that time may be your shot. It may be your last shot if you don't and it doesn't matter what level you are. You can talk to performers who have the profile, who have the success and they know better than anybody else that they're only as good as their last gig.

## North Of 60 is I guess what you're best known for and it's a huge success. Did you expect it to be that successful when you started acting on it?

I would have to say that I had no idea how successful this show was going to be. We were all very optimistic and we liked the fact that this show was presenting a window into a native community, a kind of window nobody else had seen before or seen through.

The success of the show itself has certainly opened up a lot of eyes and/or opportunities and I believe for change within the native community, both from influences outside the community and the way the community has influenced itself. What I mean to say by that is that now, there's a recognition that there is a culture and a talent and how it relates to this industry and that it's worth going after. That native people have a contribution to make to the art you can see it. *North Of 60* is proof of that.



## I was actually going to ask if you felt North Of 60 had opened up a lot more opportunities in the acting field for native people.

I have to make the assumption that is true. I don't know for sure because I'm working in it all the time so I can't really tell what it's like in the outside of that loop but I would make the assumption that it has.

And there's one thing that we as performers have to recognize; that we have a responsibility to carry having been given this success. I think we have to try and do our parts to inspire younger performers. I've been in the business like I mentioned for 30 years. To me this is not new. The level of success and the variety and exposure is certainly new, but the business is not new to me. But there are a lot of young people out there who need guidance and need to be inspired to find another way, to find a level of success that's acceptable to them.

## How is it working with a largely native cast?

It's an interesting comparison to working with a non-native cast in that a lot of the cast members have little experience as actors. At least they came in with little experience as actors, that's for sure. They have much more experience after three years. Having said that, I think a lot of the actors brought a lot of their own life to the project. So what you're seeing is you're not necessarily seeing actors, you're seeing real people. They have their own real life experiences to bring to the project.

## Do they influence the direction of their own characters or the writing in any way?

I think that not only the actors themselves, but the people in the North who are consulted with, have a very strong influence in the way the writing goes. I don't think anybody on this show would do anything they thought was detrimental to native people. They wouldn't say it, they wouldn't do it, they'd refuse to do it.

I don't think the writers are the type of people, at least they have not proven to be the type of people, who would put them in a position that they would have to make a decision of that sort.

## I have one last question and this is from the women in the office. Are you married, and if so, happily?

Yes on both accounts, thank you very much. But I'm very flattered by both questions.



Starting in this issue, *The Nation* will be printing a series of photographs generously provided to us by author Boyce Richardson.

Some of the photos are ones Boyce took while visiting James Bay in the early 1970s.

Others Boyce acquired from the National Archives of Canada. Some of these are from more than 100 years ago.

To the right, Children in front of a Teepee, Ft. George, 1927.

(National Archives #2247-1927-LTB.)



2247-1927-LTB



This editorial appeared in *Le Soleil*, a Quebec City daily paper on Oct. 14.

## "THE PQ DANCES WITH WOLVES"

by J.-Jacques Samson

Some Indian Chiefs never miss an opportunity to make incendiary statements, to demonstrate their contempt for Canadian and Quebec political leaders by indulging in low demagoguery, and to enlarge the chasm in public opinion between the Aboriginals and the francophone Quebecois majority.

The Cree Matthew Coon Come and the Mohawk Billy Two-Rivers are among them. Coon Come has once again played the international card on Sept. 19 in Washington by requesting the protection of the United States against the violence which a future government of a sovereign Quebec might visit on his people. And he continues to add more.

The Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees is dishonest towards the Quebec government and he betrays history. The Liberals of Robert Bourassa established what was, for the time, a model agreement in 1975 with the Crees, through the James Bay Agreement. The Parti Quebecois thereafter multiplied its initiatives to establish relations which were unique in Canada with the Aboriginal peoples on the basis of a recognition of their right to self-determination and, more recently, the agreement on Phase 1 of the SM-3 project with the Montagnais marks another step forward in the area of territorial rights.

Quebec in no way deserves to be the victim of verbal overkill of the type which we have been served this week, which excites passions and unjustly tarnishes its image. Coon Come is acting irresponsibly.

The sovereignist project of the Parizeau government raises legal issues of capital importance for the Aboriginals who claim ownership of their lands. The Parti Quebecois on the contrary claims that a YES vote in the referendum will make Quebec a sovereign country and that the right of the Aboriginals cannot negatively impact the integrity of Quebec's territory. It promises to associate the aboriginal Nations in the drafting of the constitutional provisions which will concern them.

In what way does the program of the Parizeau government fundamentally modify the context of aboriginal land claims and how can it constitute for them such a threat that

some of their Chiefs are already promising to hold their own referendum? Behind all the talk about ancestral rights and land claims are always hidden very onerous demands for monetary compensation. It has become strictly a matter of big bucks. In this context, wholesale denunciations and constant references to genocide must be interpreted as gross blackmail on the backs of our governments.

Let the Parizeau government concentrate its efforts, to begin with, on agreements with the Attikamek-Montagnais. They represent close to a third of the Aboriginal population in Quebec and are showing themselves far more serious. The Crees and the Mohawks will no doubt continue uttering war-whoops. Billy Two-Rivers will not have the political courage to clean up his own back yard and will surely be unmasked in the end. Since the summer of 1990, sympathy for the Mohawks is nonexistent.

As for the well-groomed Coon Come, as any professional negotiator, he will sit down with his calculator when he senses the end of the bidding is near. The weakness of the aboriginal Nations is that they are in reality more different and more divided than the Quebecois and will never constitute a very solid common front.

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## "LE SOLEIL"

Re: the 14 October 1994  
editorial:

"The PQ dances with wolves" by  
Jacques Samson

It is clear from your editorial that you are offended when the Crees and other aboriginal peoples in Quebec defend their own rights. You claim that we are contemptuous of Canada and Quebec. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We have neither attacked Quebec nor Quebecers. But we will defend Cree rights. And since the stated intentions of the separatists can only be carried out through the denial of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cree people (through the forced denial of our nationality, and the dispossession of our territory), I can understand why you so vehemently oppose the defense of Cree rights.

Now that Mr. Lucien Bouchard has once again raised the possibility of a unilateral declaration of independence, and Mr. Jacques Brassard, now a senior government minister, has reiterated the threat to use force to impose the legal will of a sovereign Quebec on those who would resist, it may be easier for

your readers to understand why I recently spoke with concern about these threats in Washington, D.C.

If the separatists really intend to achieve their political will through the use of force against the aboriginal peoples, then I can understand the embarrassment and international humiliation the mention of this fact would cause. But the fault is not mine for calling attention to the sad possibility that the separatists claim as an option the right to flaunt the rule of the law.

But why the attack on my character and honesty? (And why the gratuitous comment on my being "well-groomed"?) On what basis do you reach your twice stated conclusion that the Crees are really doing all of this for money? Imagine how offended the separatists would be if you were to claim that Quebec sovereignty were only an issue of grabbing the "big dollar."


No, the real question here is one of double standard—separatists can go to Washington to speak; Indians can not. Quebec can hold a referendum; Indians can not. Quebec is indivisible; the Cree Territory is not. The separatists can defend their rights; Indians must not defend their own.

The problem for the separatists is that this double standard just does not work. Every argument they make—whether it be based on constitutional or international law, whether it be based on fairness or justice, whether it be based on equality or human rights—leads inevitably to the same conclusion: the aboriginal peoples have at the very least the same right.

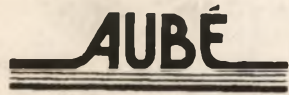
The separatists can only avoid this conclusion by employing a racist double standard; and this is exactly what Mr. Parizeau, Mr. Bouchard, and Mr. Cliche are doing. (And the Crees are not the only people to make this point.)

Yes, the separatists embarrass and humiliate themselves when they employ this evasive and contradictory logic; but they have no one to blame but themselves. As for the Crees—we will continue to defend our rights.

BY CREE GRAND CHIEF MATTHEW COON COME




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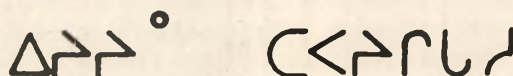


G.C.C.O.

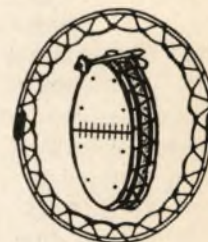
(dVb)  $\Delta \sigma < \delta \sigma^{\circ} \quad \text{for } \Delta \sigma^{\circ} \quad \nabla^{\circ} \text{NLJ}^{\circ}$

## Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)

## Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)



CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE



C.R.A.  
A.R.C.

# FIRST MINING, THEN FORESTRY, NOW GARBAGE OUJE-BOUGOUMOU'S NEW THREAT

Not too long ago, Ouje-Bougoumou inaugurated its new community. In the past, Ouje-Bougoumou has been displaced by mining companies, its trappers' territories clearcut by forestry operations and now there's a new intrusion, a garbage dump. A recent report suggests that there is a desire by entrepreneurs to build a landfill site (fancy word for garbage dump) 12 kilometers away from the community. In order to be profitable, this dump must import wastes of all kinds from far-off communities.

The promoters want to utilize an existing abandoned mine, which they claim has already had a severe impact on the environment and because of this, they say, no one should be worried about possible environmental damage from the landfill. They also claim that the garbage dump will create 25 jobs in the short-term and 150 in the long-term, failing to recognize the huge potential for regional eco-tourism that can be tapped by the Ouje-Bougoumou Nation and others, as well as potential job creation possibilities for both Cree and non-Cree individuals and enterprises.

The site will collect garbage from Chibougamau, Chapais and other local communities. But, according to the promoter, the wastes generated by regional communities do not constitute sufficient volume to make the operations profitable and, therefore, must attract garbage from far off communities. This importation of wastes could have severe consequences, since sanitary landfill (L.E.S.), under Quebec law, does not have the right to refuse wastes imported from anywhere in the province, as long as they meet permit

requirements. That means the site could accept low-level dangerous wastes without violating its permits.

On site, part of the garbage will be converted into compost, and then be sold to the Chapais co-generation plant and other interests to be burnt. Many incineration studies have shown that burning wastes can produce toxic gases and particulates, that if not removed by anti-pollution devices could have repercussions on not only the environment, but human health.

The site, as part of its operations, will also produce bio-gas. As garbage is buried, it decomposes and produces methane or bio-gas. Bio-gas smells of rotten eggs. Ouje-Bougoumou is located downwind from the site; airborne particulate from the landfilling and burning process will also be carried to destinations downwind and be deposited in and around the community and its traplines. It is unclear what these airborne particulate consist of, since they will be highly dependent on the type of garbage being buried, burned or composted.

The Ouje-Bougoumou Nation wants a say in the necessity of this landfill near its community and traplines. The Ouje-Bougoumou Nation is not insensitive to the region's unemployment and need for development. They feel that there is a more efficient and sustainable type of development that can provide more jobs for the region. By siting a landfill close to the community, the potential for sustainable development of eco-tourism and potential Cree employment opportunities is threatened.



# GENETIC REMEMBRANCE

by JEAN-LOUIS FONTAINE

*At the outset it's a murmur  
to draw near my convictions*

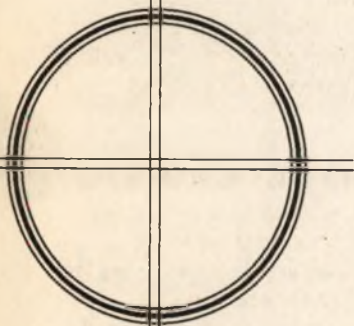
*the words whisper  
in this reflective place  
In this inspiring place*

*Metetshan\*, encircle me  
In each waterdrop  
drop-by-drop me  
I glance over your skin and I taste it*

*I fluid  
I pleasantly skim over her  
I'm intensely present  
I lucid*

*The Circle widens  
All is being accomplished  
This animal power  
is the ancestral universe  
a sensual scent*

*\*sweat-lodge*



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# First Invitational Basketball Tournament

MISTISSINI LAKE, QUEBEC.  
OCTOBER 6-9.

HOSTED BY MISTISSINI LAKE, QUEBEC  
ORGANIZED BY N.N.A.D.A.P.  
&  
MISTISSINI SPORTS AND RECREATION DEPT.

## Awards

Prize money of over \$7,250 was given out in three different categories of basketball, as well as \$50 cash was given to the Most Valuable Player in each of the categories.

### Men's Basketball

Chisasibi II Champions: \$2,500 & plaque  
vs.  
Chibougamau Finalists: \$1,000 & plaque  
(P'tite Brave Warriors)

### Women's Basketball

Chisasibi Champions: \$1,500 & plaque  
(Northern Lights Ladies)  
vs.  
Chibougamau Finalists: \$750 & plaque

### Boy's Basketball

Ouje-Bougoumou Champions: \$1,000 & plaque  
(Huskies)  
vs.  
Mistissini Finalist - \$500 & plaque  
(Windjammers)

### Individual Awards (M.V.P.)

Men's Winner: #15 Calvin House  
(Chisasibi), \$50  
Women's Winner: #12 Joanne Pash  
(Chisasibi), \$50  
Boy's Winner: #00 Nelson Mianscum  
(Ouje Huskies), \$50

## 1st Invitational Men's Basketball Tournament

### CHAMPIONS

#### CHISASIBI II

Captain:  
Paul Pachano 01, Centre  
Calvin House 15, Forward  
Clayton Stewart 22, Forward  
Lindy Bullfrog 0, P. Guard  
Louis Neacappo 00, P. Guard  
Patrick Bearskin 14, Forward



## 1st Invitational Women's Basketball Tournament

### CHAMPIONS

#### CHISASIBI NORTHERN LIGHT LADIES

Captain:  
Sarah Glisky 01, Centre  
Angela Gates 07  
Leigh-Ann Gates 14  
Joanne Pash 12  
Joanne Sam 10  
April Moar 09  
Rachel Bobbish 13  
Liette Neacappo 11

## 1st Invitational Boys' Basketball Tournament

### CHAMPIONS

#### OUGE-BOUGOUMOU HUSKIES

Captain:  
Nelson Mianscum 00, Centre  
Patrick Mianscum 34, Forward  
Randy Bosum 32, Forward  
Simeon Dixon 22, P. Guard  
Shawn Wapachee 11, P. Guard  
Manuel Longchap 24, P. Guard  
Ron Simard 01, Forward

## Men's Division

Mistissini Wolverines  
Mist. Ed's Boys  
Mist. Redskins  
Chisasibi I  
Chisasibi II  
Chibougamau P'tite Brave Warriors

## Boys' Division

Windjammers  
Ouje Huskies  
Eastmain  
Chisasibi House Boys  
Lac Simon  
Chibougamau

## Women's Division

Mist. Hawkeyes  
V.M.S.  
Northern Lights Ladies  
Chibougamau  
Chisasibi

# SCORES

## Men's Division

62 Redskins vs Ed's Boys 33  
50 Chis I vs Wolverines 43  
29 Warriors vs Chis II 31  
56 Redskins vs Wolverines 26  
61 Warriors vs Ed's Boys 37  
19 Chis I vs Chis II 55  
39 Redskins vs Chis II 43  
48 Chis I vs Ed's Boys 50  
108 Warriors vs Wolverines 56

## Boys' Division

48 Windjammers vs Huskies 50  
59 Chibougamau vs Chisasibi 18  
26 Lac Simon vs Eastmain 59  
58 Huskies vs Chisasibi 21  
68 Chib vs Lac Simon 25  
15 Eastmain vs Windjammers 47  
60 Huskies vs Lac Simon 28  
55 Eastmain vs Chisasibi 15  
52 Chib vs Windjammers 44



## Women's Division

- 21 Hawkeyes vs V.M.S. 19  
 61 N.L. Ladies vs Chis II 21  
 30 Chiboug vs Hawkeyes 19  
 30 V.M.S. vs Chisasibi II 22  
 51 Chis I vs Chibougamau 32  
 2 Hawkeyes vs Chisasibi II 0  
 36 V.M.S. vs Chibougamau 26  
 48 N.L. Ladies vs Hawkeyes 27  
 37 N.L. Ladies vs V.M.S. 22  
 60 Chibougamau vs Chis II 22

## Semi-Finals and Finals

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 31 NL Ladies vs Hawkeyes 19  
 42 Chib vs V.M.S. 18

### Boy's Division

- 32 Chibougamau vs Ouje Huskies 57  
 41 Windjammers vs Chisasibi 23

### Men's Division

- 70 P'tite Warriors vs Mist. Redskins 65  
 51 Chisasibi II vs Mist. Ed's Boys 43

### FINAL, WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 49 N.L. Ladies vs Chib 39

### FINAL, Boy's Division

- 47 Ouje vs Windjammers 44

### FINAL, MEN DIVISION

- 60 Warriors vs Chis II 62

## FINAL TOP SCORERS

### MEN'S PLAYERS

Michel Lavoie (Chib.) 95 points  
 Philip Voyageur (Mist.) 70 pts  
 Mario Tremblay (Chib.) 64 pts  
 Norman Trapper (Mist.) 51 pts  
 Sebastien Simard (Chib.) 46  
 Louis Mianscum (Mist.) 44  
 Daniel Zucker (Ed's Boys) 44  
 Calvin House (Chisasibi) 41  
 Matthew Rabbitskin (Wolves) 38  
 Paul Pachano (Chisasibi) 35

### BOYS' PLAYERS

Nelson Mianscum (Huskie) 67 points  
 Rene Coon Come (Windjam.) 59 pts  
 Patrick Mianscum (Huskies) 59  
 Yvan Leclerc (Chib.) 47  
 Randy Bosum (Huskies) 46  
 Pat Dixon (Eastmain) 38  
 Clarence House (Chisasibi) 38  
 Francois Garneau (Chib.) 37  
 Abel Trapper (Windjam.) 36  
 Bruno Simard (Chib.) 34  
 Jimmy Coon Come (Windjam.) 34

### WOMEN'S PLAYERS

Joanne Pash (Chib.) 80 points  
 Chantal Bouchard (Chib.) 75 pts  
 Andr  e Bouchard (Chib.) 67  
 Betty-Anne F. (Hawkeyes) 52  
 Joanne Sam (Chib.) 39  
 April Moar (Chib.) 37  
 Cathie Metabie (V.M.S.) 36  
 Jennifer Trapper (V.M.S.) 30  
 Theresa Isherhoff (V.M.S.) 27  
 Leanne Head (Chisasibi) 22

## A Thanks

The 1st Invitational Basketball Tournament would like to thank the following entities from Mistissini and Chibougamau for their sponsorship:

Council of Mistissini Band  
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On Sept. 28 at 4:41 p.m.,  
 Joanne Martinhunter  
 (Joseph Jimiken) gave birth  
 to a boy 4 kg 640 gr.

On Oct. 19 at 5:20 a.m.,  
 Ellen Mary Capississit  
 (Jimmy James Bosum) gave  
 birth to a boy 4 kg 40 gr.

On Oct. 17 at 8:18 p.m.,  
 Caroline Grant (Leonard  
 Mattawashish) gave birth to  
 a boy 4 kg 540 gr.

On Oct. 20 at 8:57 a.m.,  
 Coon Joyce Hattie (Johnny  
 Matoush) gave birth to a  
 girl 3 kg 350 gr.

BIRTHS AT THE HOPITAL DE CHIBOUGAMAU



# LOSING SOMEONE I CARED ABOUT

IN MEMORY of my Grand-uncle, a hunter, who passed away this summer.

Many have known him as a best friend, but to me he was a namesake and the most influential Elder in my childhood. Practically every day, memories of this man fill my mind.

Certainly in the future, I do believe a lot of things will stay in my mind, like the stories and legends he used to tell me about when they killed, what they wanted to eat, and did not waste what they killed.

I know I will miss his bright smile for the rest of my days.

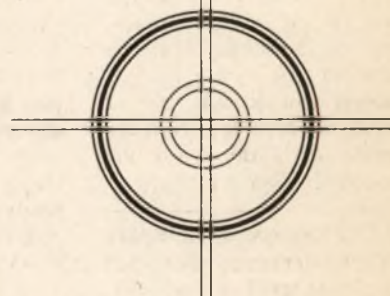
Today I have to follow my new paths, but never forget the way it used to be and the way we took pride in one another.

Sometimes it's hard to be as strong as I used to be when we were together. I imagine it will seem very weird for me every time I pass by where he used to sit in his old cabin in the bush.

The reason I am saying this is because I didn't expect to hear that he passed away, that his life was ended. I felt differently after he left me—sometimes I think I can't live without him.

The day he passed away was a black one for me. In closing, I would like to say his thoughts and his wisdom will always be a part of me.

by JACKSON JOLLY, Nemaska



## YOUTH ESSAY

## CONTEST WINNERS

**Congratulations to all\* those** who Entered *The Nation's*

First Cree Youth  
Essay Contest.

All the entires were excellent, which made it hard to choose the winners. But we narrowed it down to the top six finalists.

**Rodney Hester, age 21,  
of Nemaska.**

won our Grand Prize with his fictional essay called "Dreamcatcher."  
Rodney wins an all-expenses-paid trip to Montreal to see a concert.

**Runner-up prizes** Including a CD player and CD's go out to Betty Stewart of Wemindji, Lois Blackned of Waskaganish, Clifford Mayappo of Wemindji, Joseph Moar of Waskaganish, Harry Weistche of Waskaganish.

We will be printing all six prize-winning essays and more in *The Nation*, starting with Rodney's (see page 13 of this issue).

\* All entrants names have been put down for a Nation T- shirt. (as soon as we can make some. Ed.)

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## CLASSIFIEDS

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Agnes Mark on October 9, which we already partied on that day. Hope you had a good hangover. Til next year. From Freddie M. & Kitty M.

Happy Birthday to our daughter Darlene. Boy! you've grown so fast and getting lovelier everyday. We're proud of you. Love mom and dad from Ouje-Bougoumou.

Happy Birthday to my sister Darlene who will be 17 years old on Oct. 15. Don't party too much, better yet don't party at all. Remember you're not 18 yet. Whatever you do take care of yourself, we love you from Sis. Annette, Carl, Mathias & Valentina from Ouje-Bougoumou

A special Happy 18th B-day  
to Nelson Mianscum on Oct. 12.  
Fr: G-J. With love from: cousins,  
Dion & Nicole. Have a wonderful  
birthday!

Happy Birthday to my Daddy  
George A. Longchap on October  
23rd. All my love from your  
daughter Jennica Kalene. XOXOX.  
Mistissini

Happy Birthday to my wonderful husband George-Abel on October 23rd. Best wishes and I love you from Kitty. XOXOXO-XOXOXO. Mistissini

Happy Belated Birthday to my friend and cousin Bessie. Have a wonderful Birthday!! From your friend and cousin Sophia.

**Birthday Greetings to Roy and Karen Hester on Oct 15. Many more to come. Hope you have lots of fun. From family and friends, Waskaganish Quebec.**

**Birthday Greeting: Happy Birthday to Mary Betty Ann Gilies who will be 1 year on Nov. 18. With lots of Love from Margaret & Grace Whiskeychan.**

I wanna wish happy first birthday to Mary Betty Ann Gillies on November 18 and many more to come. Love always: Claudia Whiskeychan. From: Waskaganish.

We want to wish a happy birthday to Isaac L. on Oct 25th and Nancy L. on Oct 27th and Betsy L on Oct 29th. With lots of love from: at the site eenuch.

Happy Belated Birthday to my lovely wife, Alexandra Chakapash on Oct. 4. We love you so much from your husband Thomas Chakapash & kids.

Happy Birthday to Darlene Shecapio Blacksmith from Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec. Love: cousin Amy Mianscum. Have a wonderful time! XXX

I wanna wish a happy birthday to a special friend in Waskaganish, Daisy R. Gilpin on Oct. 24. Hope you have a good one! Friend always, Gloria

Happy birthday to Curtis Bosum (Oct 4). I'll be thinking of you on this special day! From: lovealways....

Happy birthday to Darlene Shecapio Blacksmith on October 15. Hope you have a great time. Love always: Secret Admirer XXX

Wishing a happy 4th birth-  
day to my brother Josiah Coon  
November 2 and Grandma Lizzie  
Matoush Nov. 18. Loving you  
forever & ever. Jeraldene.

Sis remember the times I used to tease you & really get on your nerves. I'm not finished yet. Happy 1st Birthday to Leah (Oct 28) love: Maverick super bro

Happy Birthday to Richard and Ruth on October 27. Double happy wishes! Enjoy your day. From Mary, Nancy and Helen. As you may remain standing, we did not mention your ages.

Happy birthday to my husband  
Thomas Chakapash on Oct 27.  
With lots of love from your wife  
Alexandra

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our dad Thomas. Oct 27 from Serena, Robert, Brian and Valentina.

Happy Birthday to Noah Cheechoo on his 9th birthday on Nov. 4th. We love you. Mom, Dad, Orenda and Nanne

## the Nation's CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

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104 Graduations	400 EVENTS
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**Happy Birthday** to my sweet, adorable, handsome grandson Jordan. His birthday is on October 20th, he is a year old and I hope he has many, many more birthdays. All my love, hugs and kisses from grandmother Doris.

**Happy belated Birthday wish to Lillian Brien - you sexy thing. Hope you got what you really wanted! From your secret admirer in Montreal.**

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to our Aunt Sarah Cowboy in Chisasibi on Nov 28, and also to her hubby Ben on Nov. 29. From your nieces in Waskaganish.

Happy Birthday to Peter Esau  
who's Birthday was on Oct. 17.  
From your lovely daughter Alicia  
Esau and from love always Yvonne

To Beatrice Whiskeychan in  
Waswanipi whose birthday is on  
Nov 23. Happy Birthday Sis. From  
your Sis in Waskaganish. Have a  
good one Sis. Kiss T. J. for me

Happy 60th Birthday to our father Johnny Swallow on October 31. With lots of love from MaryAnne, Cheryl, Isaac, Charlene

We'd like to wish Happy Birthday to our chef Michael Martel (Nov 7th). Hope you have a nice day. From all the staff at Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge, Waskaganish, Quebec

We wanna wish a Happy 10th Birthday to Jason Melvin Snowboy on Nov. 8/94 and many more to come. Hope your wishes come true. Love always Ralph House and Margaret-Rose House

Happy Birthday to my brother Gilbert on Oct. 11 and also to my nephew Ernie Pepabano on Oct. 22. From Jessie

We would like to wish Happy 60th Birthday to Johnny Swallow on October 31st. From Larry, Dolores & Kerri Anne (Eastmain)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

We wanna wish a Happy Birthday to our sons, Danny (Oct. 6) and Davey (Oct. 19). "You are my life." With lots of love from Mommy and Daddy

To Clarence and Christine Bearskin. Birthdays on August 19 and September 27, and Lori Pearl (Pooh) on Sept. 30. Wishing you all Happy Belated Birthdays and good health. Love and kisses Melanie.

I would like to wish a Happy 60th Birthday (on Oct. 31) to my Grandfather Johnny Swallow in Chisasibi. With lots of love, Kerri-Anne

We wanna wish a special birthday to a precious nephew Lance S. MacLeod on November 20th. With lots of love from Louise, Norman & Georgina (Mistissini)

Wishing a Happy Birthday to our wonderful little man Josiah Coon turning 4 on Nov 2. May this day be a joyous event. Loving you always, Mom & Dad

Happy 2nd Birthday to Stephanie "Aminigo" Matthew on Nov. 4th with love from Mom and Dad, Granma Maudie, Grandpa Robbie and family in Chisasibi

Happy 50th Birthday to Robbie W. Matthew on Nov. 1st. With lots of love from your wife and children and from Chi-skosh, Aminigo, Boy and Ban-Jeen-Ban.

We'd like to wish Happy Birthday to our General Manager Patrick "Badgee" Regina on the 23rd of November. Take a day off, relax and enjoy your birthday... NOT!!!! From all the staff at Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge, Waskaganish, Quebec

Happy birthday to a very special couple who both work at the clinic, Elizabeth I & William on Nov. 12. From Staff. P.S. Don't work too close (Mistissini)

Happy 18th Birthday to my uncle Charles House (Oct. 6) and happy 1st birthday to Jordan-Lee Rabbitskin (Oct. 20). From: Danny Boy Wadden

We wanna wish a Happy Birthday to our Grandma Margaret Wadden on Oct. 9. "We love you," with hugs and kisses from Davey and Danny

Happy Birthday to Isabelle Cheezo from Eastmain on October 22. Love from Dad Frank, Brother Dennis & George. Hoping many more to come.

The wonderful things you do make you a unique Grandma that makes our lives more special. Happy Birthday. Love always Josiah & Jeraldene Coon

Happy 25th Anniversary to our parents/grandparents Mary and Morley McKee on November 5. Thank you for everything you have done for us. With love always, Warren, Cynthia, Jeannie, Bill, Tanita and Tyson. XXXXO-OOO

A Birthday wish to our dad, Bobby E. Georgekish who will be 53 years old on Nov. 7. With love, Gary, Kathleen, Paul, Valeire, Hannah, LaurieAnn, Tracy and Katelynn.

Happy 5th Birthday to a special granddaughter and niece Nikki Baribeau on November 9. We love you so much!!! XOXOX From Grandma & aunts

Birthday wishes to my wonderful Grandmother Irene on Oct 25 and to my Auntie Wanda Bearskin on Oct 21. Happy Birthday and many more to come. Love always, Melanie Pachano XOX. I love you all.

Happy Birthday to my wonderful mother Irene on October 25. Happy Birthday and I hope you have many more birthdays. I love you! Love always Julie.

Happy Birthday to Ernest Webb who is the most wonderful father and husband in the world. We love you with all our hearts. Nshoowhymanan. Love your daughter Kataleen and wife Catherine. XXX and HUGS.

Nwee wajyamanan noojimamnan Ernie Heebe adibshgihk noohjibeboomh. Inj gayabitseetch int misinheegin The Nation guyshinhgadeid.

Happy Birthday to Sharon Mianscum on Nov. 5 and John Henry Shecapio on Nov. 6. From your nephew Nihaabanush Mianscum. XOXOXOXOX

Happy 2nd Birthday to Robert Martin-Hunter on Oct. 19. Have lots of fun from Davey House

Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Nicholls on November 23 going to school in Montreal. Love from all the family and friends.



Happy November birthday to my son Eric Nicholls-Wapachee from your dad. Thinking of you as always.

Cathy Bainbridge: Have a supercalifragalisticexpialidocious birthday. Lots of love from everyone at La Nation.

## 103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 6th Anniversary to Abraham & Agnes Bosum on Oct. 15. Wishing all the best. From: Mom & Dad, Gloria, Diane and Louise & Walter.

## 201-WANTED

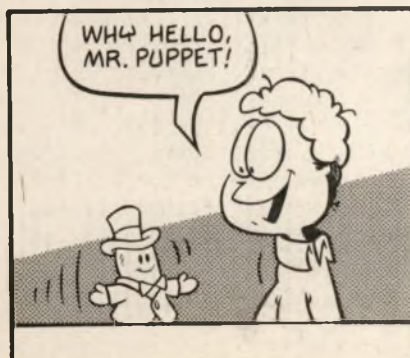
Wanted pen pals, ages 10-15 boys and girls who love to write. My name is Theresa Bosum. 82 Opataca Ouje-Bougoumou, Qc. G0W 3C0. I'll be waiting!

## 500-MISCELLANEOUS

We wanna say Hello! to Andrew Kawapit Jr. and Happy Halloween. Have fun! See you soon. From Margaret-Rose and Christine House (Chisasibi)

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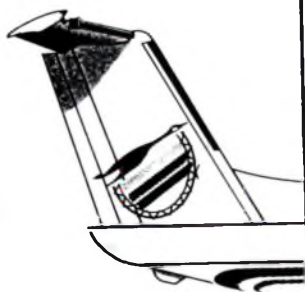
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## A diversified Department

The activities of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) are numerous and varied since it has the responsibility for managing salt-water fish stocks. DFO is responsible for conservation, development and the sustainable harvesting of fish resources and their environment. It also inspects marketed fish products and fish processing plants which export their products. DFO conducts or supports a range of programs, for example the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, the Habitat Action Plan, the Quebec Federal Fisheries Development Program and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Testing and Experimentation Program.

DFO is divided into six administrative regions. The boundaries of the Quebec Region coincide with the province's borders. The Region serves several thousand fishermen and over 100 processing plants. Most of DFO's employees work at the Quebec Regional Office or at local offices such as Inukjuak. The Maurice Lamontagne Institute in Mont-Joli conducts research on fisheries, oceanography and hydrography, while the René Poirier Laboratory, near Montreal, inspects imports and exports.

### An office for you

Since 1983, DFO, through its Northern Quebec Area and Native Affairs has been working with the Cree Regional Authority on various initiatives. The Cree benefited from various programs already available on Inuit territory. As other Area offices, the product inspection and the conservation of fish stock, marine mammals and their environment. Its principal activities include consultations and the gathering of statistics which help the Department make the best possible decisions, and help it evaluate the impact of projects that effect the marine environment.

For more information on DFO and its programs, you can call our Inukjuak office at 1 800 254-8117 or (819) 254-8518, or our Quebec office at (418) 649-6196.

## Un ministère aux activités variées

Les activités du ministère des Pêches et Océans (MPO) sont nombreuses et variées, car il est responsable de la gestion des pêches en eau salée. Le MPO voit à la conservation, à la mise en valeur et à l'utilisation viable des ressources naturelles pêchées et de leur milieu de vie. Il inspecte aussi les produits marins vendus et les usines de transformation qui exportent leurs produits. Le MPO met de l'avant ou appuie divers programmes, comme par exemple la Stratégie des pêches autochtones, le Plan d'action pour l'habitat du poisson, le Programme fédéral de développement des pêches du Québec ou le Programme d'essai et d'expérimentation halieutiques et aquicoles.

Le MPO est divisé en six régions administratives dont celle du Québec qui correspond au territoire de la province. La région du Québec est au service de plusieurs milliers de pêcheurs et d'une centaine d'usines de transformation. La plupart des employés travaillent au bureau régional de Québec et dans les bureaux de secteurs, tel celui d'Inukjuak. À l'Institut Maurice-Lamontagne de Mont-Joli, on mène des recherches sur les pêches, en océanographie et en hydrographie tandis que, près de Montréal, le laboratoire René-Poirier inspecte les importations et les exportations.

### Un bureau pour vous

Le MPO, par l'entremise de son secteur Nord québécois et Affaires autochtones, collabore depuis 1983 avec l'Administration régionale crie à différents projets. Les Cris ont bénéficié de l'appui de plusieurs programmes, aussi offerts en territoire inuit. Comme les autres secteurs, le secteur Nord québécois et Affaires autochtones applique les lois et règlements, notamment ceux qui sont relatifs à l'inspection des produits de même qu'à la conservation des poissons et des mammifères marins et à leur environnement. Il mène notamment des consultations et compile des données statistiques qui permettent au Ministère de prendre des décisions judicieuses. Il effectue également l'évaluation environnementale des projets ayant un impact sur le milieu de vie du poisson.

Pour plus d'information sur le MPO et ses programmes, n'hésitez pas à contacter notre bureau à Inukjuak en composant le 1 800 254-8117 ou le (819) 254-8518 ou encore en appelant le bureau de Québec au (418) 649-6196.



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